



Abstract of the Disclosure

A method for suppressing the evaporation of zinc in the hot dip coating of steel strip with zinc or zinc alloys, wherein the metal strip is guided through a furnace snout immersed in the metal bath, guided around a deflecting roller in the metal bath, and then emerges from the metal bath at the top. A gas or gas mixture is present in the furnace snout above the metal bath as an isolating gas, which has poor thermal conductivity, a density $< 2 \text{ kg/m}^3$ and the property of being capable of reducing or eliminating turbulence of the gas or gas mixture above the surface of the metal bath.